

NEEDHAM NEWS - SPRING 2008

Dear Friends

Christmas has come and gone, and the winter is almost over...according to Solomon the voice of the turtle is heard in the land, but we remain connected to you, and deeply thankful for your friendship and prayers.

In October we celebrated our "baby's" fortieth birthday in England and had the opportunity to spend time with our daughter and her two daughters on the way to Andrew's party. Steve has been appointed vicar of St Chad's, Handforth, Manchester and he and Jo and the girls will move over the summer. Paul and family couldn't be there but we were able to see them in their home at the beginning of December and have an early Christmas with them.

November presented an unusual opportunity for us in the town of Dungannon, Northern Ireland. Some eight or nine churches got together to sponsor a week of Bible Conference. This is very unusual in this country. The group crossed many denominational boundaries, and as always happens when people come together as Christians to exalt the name of the Lord Jesus and not just to build up their own vested interests many hearts were touched and new levels of faith and commitment resulted.

The latter part of November we were in the Spokane area. A small church opened its doors for a week of Bible teaching; the interesting difference this time was it was mostly the youth that got behind it and made it happen. Ken was also a guest teacher at a Christian school housed in log cabins, with six inches of snow to enhance the scene. A class of six-year-olds was studying the pituitary gland, and one of them spelt it on the whiteboard! They were great fun to teach.

The community church in Lake Tapps welcomed us warmly. The preparations for their Christmas programs did not leave time for many meetings, but the ones we had were very worthwhile. It also gave us some time with Paul and family. This includes three tenths of our grandchildren, and daughter-in-law Leeanne who manages our webpage. The trip finished with a long weekend at Moreland Bible Church, Portland. It has been special to be included in the rebuilding of this congregation who are now to the point of extending their premises.

We were in Ireland for Christmas and preached in a few local churches, including our home church (Christ Church, Kilkeel) and a most unlikely combination of a Plymouth Brethren Assembly with an Elim Pentecostal church in a town near Belfast.

Our last trip started in Canada. Ken preached in two churches that were new to us. The week-long series in Ontario was very well received as was the Quiet Morning for women. The two morning services in Edmonton went well and were followed by a quick exit to the airport part way through the second service. To fit Ken in they put the sermon at the beginning. Lowest temperature was minus 27 deg C (minus 15 deg F).

The journey from Edmonton to Portland is not far but it proved to be very unpleasant. Eva was selected for a body search in one airport and her fingerprint readout was unclear in the next one resulting in our being held in a waiting area almost to the point of missing the connecting flight. We only made it by sprinting through the length of the airport carrying computer bags and arriving sweaty and gasping for breath. Eva picked up a nasty flu' bug which kept her out of action for the next three weeks.

Lecturing on Cristology at the Bible School in Cannon Beach was as demanding and rewarding as ever and was followed by a lovely week as speaker for a Quaker Church in North Portland. Ken led a Quiet Morning as Eva was not up to it. Paul and family paid a surprise overnight visit, cooked up by him and our hostess. A delight!

Sharpstown Baptist Church in Houston TX was our host for the next week, another congregation with whom we have built up a special relationship over a number of years. Ken was also invited to talk to the staff of "Living Water International" a mission which has provided safe drinking water for over 13 million people in primitive situations, always presenting the Gospel while drilling the well.

When we reached Hawaii Eva had finally recovered her health and zip thanks to very warm and caring hosts. We were the guests of two churches and Ken also gave talks in three chapel services of the Hawaiian Baptist Academy. Some exciting prospects opened up for 2009 conveniently filling two weeks in the itinerary between San Francisco and New Zealand. These include two churches not previously visited and the Evangelical Covenant Seminary, with a return to the Baptist Academy.

Easter is just behind us. Ken spoke in an eight day Holy Week conference at a church near Belfast (first time to visit this church) and we left Easter Sunday night for Turkey. This trip was of an exploratory nature. Friends have bought

property there which they are planning to remodel and develop into a small retreat centre for Turkish Christians and for missionaries working in nearby countries. Turkey is officially a secular state but largely Muslim. Our involvement would involve teaching and facilitating retreats. It would be somewhat demanding, could be risky and would mean cutting back in other areas of ministry as we might spend two to three months at a time there. We wait to see how the Lord will lead. Please pray with us.

Easter is so full of promise. All powers and every form of evil were smashed by the power of love truth and purity when Jesus rose from the dead. The stone was rolled away to reveal the emptiness of the tomb and the powerlessness of death. Are there dark places of despondency in your heart or mine that need a personal Easter?

Lord, roll away the stones and let the light of your magnificent victory chase away all shreds of gloom and unbelief.

An itinerary is attached; please pray us through it. In the life and love of Jesus

Ken and Eva Needham.

KEN AND EVA NEEDHAM'S ITINERARY: MARCH – DECEMBER 2008

March	1-5	Kailua	HI	USA
	6-7	Albuquerque	NM	USA
	7-9	Northeast	MD	USA
	15-23	Belfast		N. Ireland
	24-29	Kas		Turkey.
April	1-25	Various Locations		Ireland
	26-30	Malaga		Spain
May	1-8	Malaga		Spain.
	17-21	Murfreesboro	TN	USA
	21-24	Brentwood	TN	USA
	24-30	Nappanee	IN	USA
	30, 31	Boston	VA	USA
June	1-5	Boston	VA	USA.
	22-30			Baltic States.
July	1-4			Baltic states
	19-26	Cannington	ONT	Canada
	26-31	Etna	CA	USA
Aug.	1-2	Etna	CA	USA
	2-9	Georgetown	CA	USA
Sep.	12-24	Capetown		South Africa
Oct.	3-20	Copenhagen		Denmark
Nov.	1-8	Albuquerque	NM	USA
	8-15	Ripon	CA	USA
	15-22	Auburn	CA	USA
	22-30	Lexington	SC	USA
Dec.	1-8	Naples	FLA	USA